

Chief, Geophysics Branch, FSD/SI

22 January 1957

VIA : Chief, Geography Division, ORR
Chief, Far East Branch, D/GG

Comments on "Geology in Communist China," OSI Project, PD 6-403

1. Subject paper, forwarded for review and comment by your memorandum of 8 January 1957, has been reviewed in this branch and forwarded to Petroleum Branch, Materials Division, ORR for further review, as requested.

2. The paper is a valuable survey of officially directed geological research and of the personalities behind it. In its present form it could be published without major changes and serve a useful purpose as a research tool.

3. General comments:

a. Title vs. content: The title is so broad as to invite unnecessary criticism. In terms of content, the paper might be described as a survey of the current organization of geological research in Communist China. Under the present title, one would look for mention and review of the major works published in latter years, and greatly expanded treatment of geological surveying activities and results.

b. Place names: While the names of people are consistently rendered correctly, the place names in the text are rendered somewhat erratically, e.g., Changchun, Changchiakou, Shenyang, Changsha (P. 4, L. 5, 6); Ch'angch'un, Ch'engt'u (P. 7, L. 11, 14); Peiping (P. 4, L. 4), Peking (P. 7, L. 11); Tai-tze Ho (P. 10, L. 14), Taitzeho (P. 38, L. 16), Taitzu River (P. 52, L. 18); Chou K'ou-tien (P. 10, L. 24), Choukoutien (P. 53, L. 20); Hsi Tsao Huan (P. 35, L. 10); Tonshanchen (P. 35, L. 20); Kiuchuan (P. 22, L. 23); etc. Normally, place names should be transliterated according to decisions of the Board of Geographic Names (see HIS Gazetteer, and when in doubt, call at code 155, x 734). Apostrophes and hyphens are still necessary. Only in the case of "Peiping" is ORR inclined to depart from this procedure, using "Peking" when possible.

c. Chinese characters: The section on "Personalities" should have the characters for the names accompanying it.

d. Bibliographical material: This material can be highly useful, and its usefulness would be enhanced by adding, for each entry, the date and indication of journal in which published. Something needs

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to be stated concerning the scope of the bibliography; it would appear to be limited to current production, yet J.S. Lee's now-classic "Geology of China" also appears. Finally, is all of this bibliography available here?

e. "Geological Surveying Activities and Results," pp. 21-27: It is our tentative opinion, submitted for what it may be worth, that to stay within the limitations imposed by the materials and the tenor of the rest of the report, this section should probably be condensed to about three or four paragraphs. As it stands, considering its length, this section (a) is not sufficiently specific with reference to localities and to the net importance of recent work as compared to earlier work, (b) may not have dipped deeply enough into all the press materials available, and (c) needs some evaluation, the straightforward disclaimer (P. 22, L. 3) notwithstanding.

"Discovery," as journalists use the word, frequently means only "restudy." Most of the new discoveries, probably, would be as a result of subsurface exploration by drilling or geophysical means, and would probably be confined to the areas where such prospecting is underway. In lieu of complete evaluation, collation and examination of fragmentary press reports by areas and by provinces as well as by types of minerals would be helpful. In this connection, a recent reference work on the mineral resources of China is the MIB, USGS report of January 1955 entitled "Uranium and Thorium Resources of the Communist Countries, Part IV, China and North Korea" (Secret).

4. Specific comments:

a. P. 1, Para. 2. Brief reference to specific pioneering works in the field would lend perspective. The bibliography of these earlier decades is probably still in use, and passing reference to it is justified. Following the statement about structural geology, the date "1927" in parentheses requires explanation.

b. P. 2, ll. 10-12. The prevalent opinion in this branch is that these "administrative areas" have been abandoned for planning purposes, as they were for administration in 1954, and that the areas or "regions" referred to in the Second Five-Year Plan Proposals (FMS 9 Oct 56) are somewhat different from those of 1953. The South-Central area probably exists no more, except in the prose of some busy journalists referring to out-of-date atlases. Hence, the statement should be dated, and if possible, brought up to date.

c. P. 3, heading. For "Organizations," would suggest "Professional Societies."

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d. P. 4, lines 15, 17. The second "Hsueh-pao" is probably an error, since the translations differ.

e. P. 5, L. 22. "Academy of Sciences." A decision should be made as to whether to use this term or "Academia Sinica" as on page 2, and the discarded version entered at least once in parentheses.

f. P. 9, L. 5. Suggest ending the sentence after "ores." "Sinisian" is meaningless to most of us without explanation, and the mention of geological periods raises more questions than it answers.

g. P. 9, L. 14. "The Geology of China." Is this Lee's old book or a new one?

h. P. 9, L. 13. "...an atlas of ancient China..." Recently on a State Dept. Library acquisition list a new work translated as "Geography of Ancient China" was noted. This may be the work referred to or its first cousin. At any rate, when examined by an analyst in this Branch it turned out to be an atlas of historical geology through the Mesozoic Period, miscatalogued by State.

i. P. 10, L. 20. "Phylogenized." What does this word mean?

j. P. 15, L. 5. Ch'eng-tu and Canton are far apart, and this statement, may need correction.

k. P. 18, L. 20, 21. "Reserves." While factually true, this needs some comparison to known reserves in 1953 or before, and perhaps technical amplification of the term "reserves" to become fully meaningful.

l. P. 22, L. 22-24. Could the author state the other two areas?

m. P. 33, L. 11. "Hseang." is misspelled. Probably should be "Hsiang-".

n. P. 62, L. 10. "Supervisor" sounds strange in this connection, and possibly a more explanatory term could be found.

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